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About our new look

Welcome to the new look of The Journal Newspapers.

For several years, our papers have been printed in a smaller broadsheet format to clearly identify them as unique to the communities they serve.

While successfully establishing our identity in the communities, the smaller format was somewhat restrictive in the amount of page space we could devote to local news.

With our recent entry into the Greater Detroit Newspaper Network, a regional advertising sales arm, the conversion of advertising messages to our previous format was difficult and time consuming, particularly for advertisers seeking a uniform method of establishing their identity.

Our new page size, which conforms to the current newspaper standard, is deeper and will allow us, we hope, to bring each of our communities more local news and provide the ability to do more analysis and detailed stories. In short, more page space, we hope, should translate into more news for our readers.

We're also hoping the new format will provide a stronger, more effective medium for our local advertisers to deliver their message to potential customers. In these economic times, local businesses need the support of everyone in the community, and we hope this new format will increase their opportunity to reach our readers with their message.

It's a new year, we have a new look, and hope to slowly add more features and news items to ensure that we become an integral part of every resident's weekly routine.

We've been serving our communities for decades, some of our papers for more than a century. Our look and format have been redesigned many times to remain in touch with the needs of our advertisers and readers.

We're hoping you approve. But, whatever you think, drop us a line or give us a call to let us know how we can do our job better.

Susan Willett

Publisher

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THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 120, No. 6

NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

Testimony: Casino should bring jobs

Molly Tippen
 Staff Writer

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert spoke at a hearing of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee for a second time yesterday to encourage lawmakers to support off-reservation Indian gaming.

Lambert was one of several elected officials from Michigan to speak in support of two bills that would pave the way for casinos in Romulus and Port Huron. Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his mother, Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Detroit), spoke in opposition to the measure.

"In December of 2003, Romulus had a referendum vote asking our residents if they would want a casino development in the City of Romulus," Lambert read from his

prepared statement. "The residents overwhelmingly voted in favor of allowing a casino development in the city limits.

"I believe, as do the residents of Romulus, that this casino would be a benefit to the city of Romulus, and would also provide huge benefits to the entire region, as well as the state of Michigan," he said.

Last month, the Bureau of Indian Affairs dealt a setback to proponents of a \$250 casino Friday by rejecting the Hannahville Indian community application to place several acres of land near Interstate 94 and Vining Road in a trust that would pave the way for an Indian casino to operate on land not deemed a reservation.

The bureau determined that the 9-acre parcel of property in Romulus is too far from tribe's ancestral lands in Michigan's

Upper Peninsula to positively impact reservation life.

There is also an opportunity for the Sault Tribe to possibly bring a casino to Romulus or Monroe through an agreement signed by former Gov. John Engler to resolve an Indian gaming lawsuit and land claim, but federal approval would still be needed to move forward on that project.

However, other opposition has cropped up. Detroit officials believe a casino in Port Huron and Romulus would negatively impact patronage at the three casinos within the city, thereby creating over-saturation in the market.

Lambert has said publicly he believes a casino in the city would have little effect on Detroit casinos, and he reiterated that point yesterday.



Mayor Alan Lambert

"We have patiently waited for this to move forward as the Michigan economy has worsened," Lambert said. "We are con-

See Testimony, page 4

2 seats available on board

Molly Tippen
 Staff Writer

There may be quite a bit of interest in two open seats on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education now that an incumbent is retiring.

With only a week remaining to file for election, one resident has filed the necessary petitions to seek a four-year term on the seven-member board, and one other has obtained petitions.

One who will not be seeking re-election is Betty Lenossi, who is retiring. Board Trustee Tom Kuderik has obtained nominating petitions for the seat, and Danielle Funderburg, a parent and former candidate, has also filed for election, according to Rendell Wooden, the city elections clerk.

"There hasn't been too much activity because it's early," she said.

Romulus board members are elected at large on a staggered schedule. Two board terms open each year, with a singular board member up at the end of each cycle. Board members direct policy at the district, which has a \$21 million budget and about 4,400 students.

In the past several years, board members have struggled with balancing the district books amid up-and-down funding from the state, and a difficult enrollment situation.

Some of those issues were resolved in part when the district introduced Schools of Choice, which allows some students who live outside the district to attend classes in Romulus.

Superintendent of Schools Carl Weiss reports directly to the board.

Funderburg has sought the seat twice before, but narrowly missed being elected. She was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

Kuderik was also unavailable for comment Tuesday.

See Board, page 4



Going robotic

After participating in a 10 week after school tutoring program, 16 Cory School Robotics students were recently invited to visit the Romulus High School Robotics Team. Under the instruction of teachers Joseph Commander and Paul Grange, fifth and sixth grade students designed and completed eight LEGO robots utilizing software that allowed them to control and program each unit. During the high school visit, the students were able to see robots in action that were designed by the high school students for regional and national competitions. Future Robotics engineers pictured are (left to right) Marcus Madison, DeAnte Ross-Springer, Chelsi Dawson, Cassandra Clay, Romulus High School Robotics Team Director Andrew Stewart, Chris Burton and Moses Proctor.

12-year school board member to retire

Molly Tippen
 Staff Writer

The kindly bus driver who helped the Romulus School Board drive policy is letting someone else take a turn at the wheel.

Betty Lenossi, the three-term school board member who was also a long-term district employee, said she will not seek a fourth term on the seven-member board.

"It's true, I am retiring," said Lenossi, 75. "I'm going to be 76 years old next month, and campaigning takes a lot of work.

"There are a lot of people who wanted to campaign for me. But I felt that if you really want something, you can't delegate it to others to do for you. Its just time to go."

Lenossi was elected to the school board 12 years ago. She wanted to serve on the board while she was still employed as a bus driver, but she was told she would

There are a lot of people who wanted to campaign for me. But I felt that if you really want something, you can't delegate it to others to do for you. Its just time to go.

Betty Lenossi

have to resign her position.

"I wasn't ready to leave, but I always wanted to run," she said. "I put in 29 years at the school district, and I was asked by so many people to run."

It turned out to be a good choice for Lenossi. She was able to defeat a popular incumbent, Debra Hoffman, and has been re-elected twice.

During three terms, Lenossi said she's seen quite a few changes.

"I do think (the state) is going to have to do something about the funding over the long haul," she

said. "It's been something that's been difficult to balance for a long time, and we've been forced to make some tough decisions."

Among those tough decisions are voting to lay off employees.

"I've always supported the unions, and it was very hard for me personally to have to lay people off - that was probably the worst (experience on the board)," she said. "But we had to do it because if we couldn't remain solvent, no one would have a job. But it was hard

See Lenossi, page 4

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Something to smile about

Mobile dental office pays visit to Haggerty School

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Children at Haggerty Elementary School had something to smile about last week.

Just outside their Belleville classrooms, Smile Michigan Mobile Dentist stopped and set-up shop to provide on site dental care.

"Any student in the school can use it and we saw a fair amount take advantage of it for the first time here," said Diana Campbell, secretary at Haggerty. "We saw this going on at Savage Elementary School and thought we needed it offer it here, too."

The mobile dental preventative services include exams, screenings, cleaning, fluoride treatment, radiographs and sealants. Something that Smile Michigan will provide to Haggerty School every six months.

"The benefit is it provides an easy experience for parents to have kids get dental

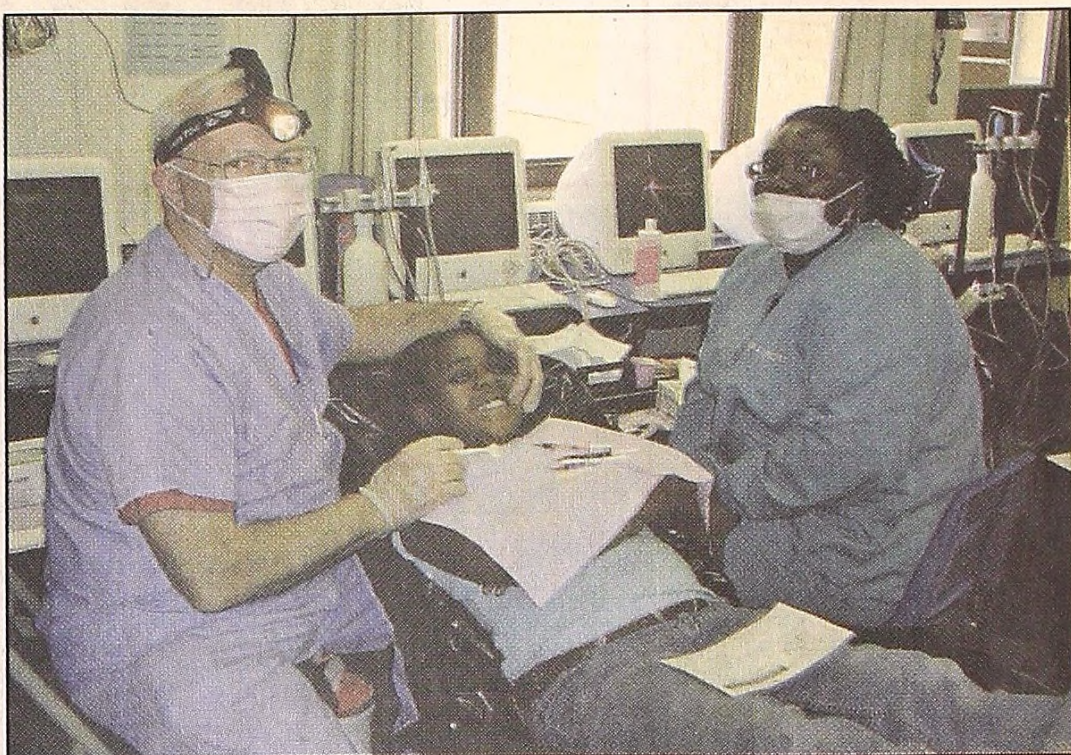
checkups and on the road for treatment," said Dr. Dan Levitsky. "They can have it done while they're right in school and get proper dental care."

In partnership with the Children's Dental Health Foundation, mobile dentist can offer grants to families who require full financial assistance or subsidized fees for those who need financial aid. No child is ever turned away for lack of resources, they said.

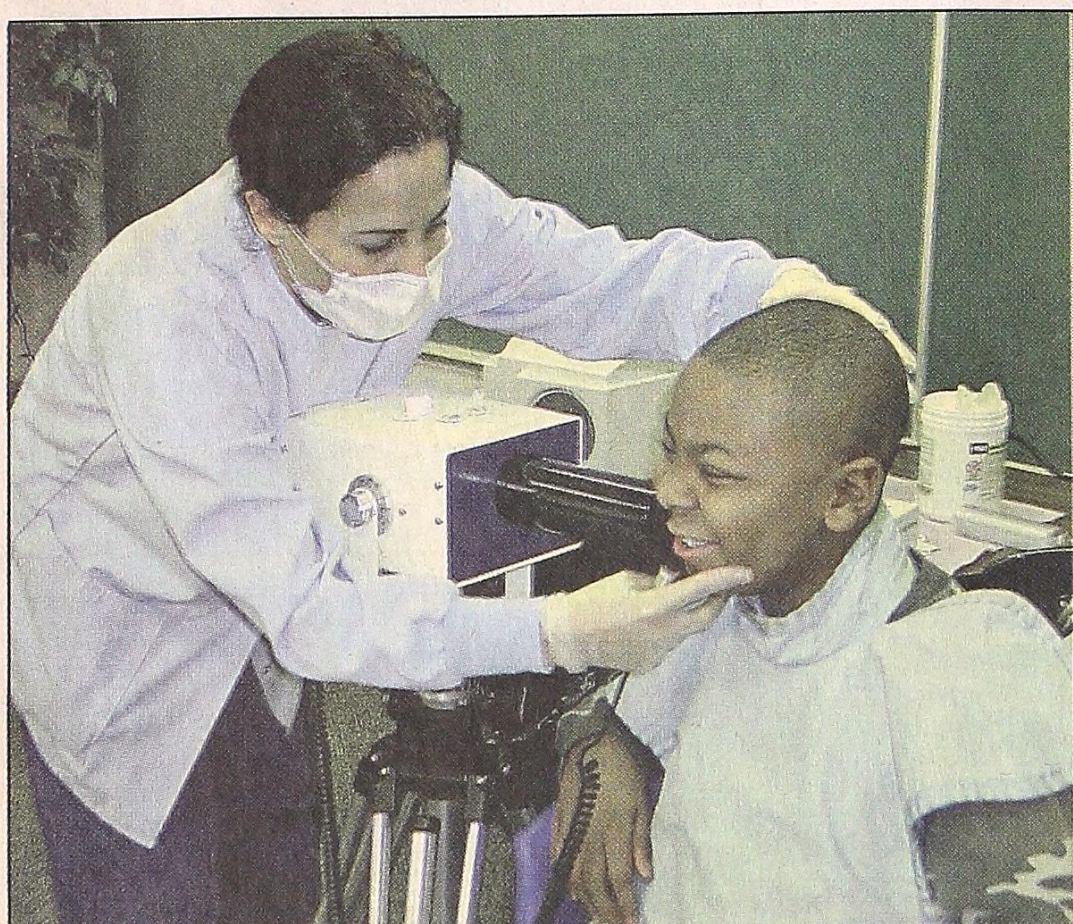
"It's difficult for parents with Medicaid insurance to find a dentist so we help with that," said Levitsky.

"Plus the students get to see other classmates go through the process and don't have to be scared of the dentist," said Vincin Mcgruver, on-site hygienist.

For future visits, children can return completed permission forms and receive some or all of the above services. For more information visit www.mobiledentist.com.



Hygienist Debbie Giannone gives this student an x-ray as part of the mobile dentist services that will be offered every six months now at the school.



Dr. Dan Levitsky and Vincin Mcgruver, dental hygienist, give this student her dental check-up and cleaning at Haggerty Elementary School.

School board members honored

Members of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education were recognized recently in honor of school board recognition month.

They join 552 area and 57 intermediate school districts in the state as more than 4,100 elected school board members are honored by their schools and communities, according to officials.

The foundation of school leadership is ensuring equal learning opportunities for all students. The district is proud and school board recognition month is the time to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of elected trustees, officials said.

In Van Buren schools, board members

must develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting the entire community. They bear responsibly for an annual budget of an estimated \$55 million for 6,400 students, 775 employees and 12 buildings, according to officials.

The school board includes: David Peer who has 17 years of services, Martha Toth who has 16 years of service, Ralph Nodwell who has 11 years of service, Keith Johnston who has seven years of service, Toni Hunt who has six years of service, Victor Hogan who has five years of service and Robert Binert who has five years of service.

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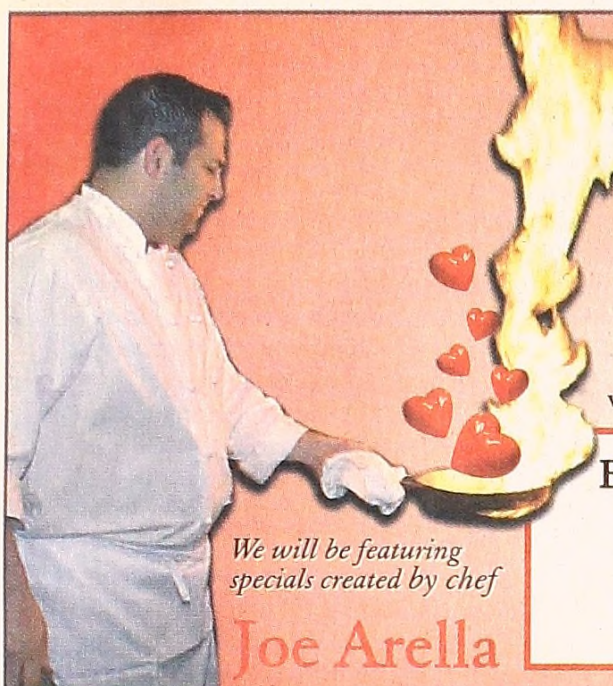
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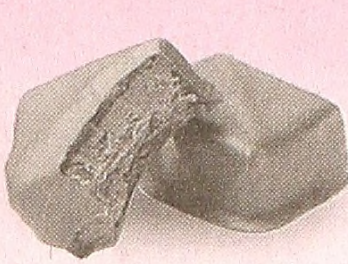
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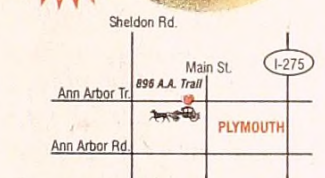
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Officials' salaries remain unchanged

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Members of the Romulus City Council will not receive a boost in the amount of their yearly stipend any time soon.

The Officers Compensation Committee, which analyzes the amount of money department heads and elected officials should be paid, recommended no increase in the \$9,396 city council members are currently paid to attend city meetings.

The review of salaries takes place every two years by the committee to determine whether stipend amounts are comparable to those paid elected officials in other area municipalities.

“Personally, I agree with the findings of the committee,” said

Personally, I agree with the findings of the committee.
I'm not looking for a raise. We shouldn't even
consider a raise until the next council term.

Councilman William Wadsworth

Councilman William Wadsworth. “I’m not looking for a raise. We shouldn’t even consider a raise until the next council term.”

All seven council terms will expire and be up for election in November 2009, and a year later, the committee will convene again to look at whether a raise is warranted.

At a recent meeting of the committee, it was determined by a vote

of the five-member body to maintain stipends at their current level. The determination will become effective in several days, unless it is disputed by city council members.

The council appears to accept the recommendations in part because of the overall economy, said Wadsworth.

“I’m satisfied with what we earn,” he said.

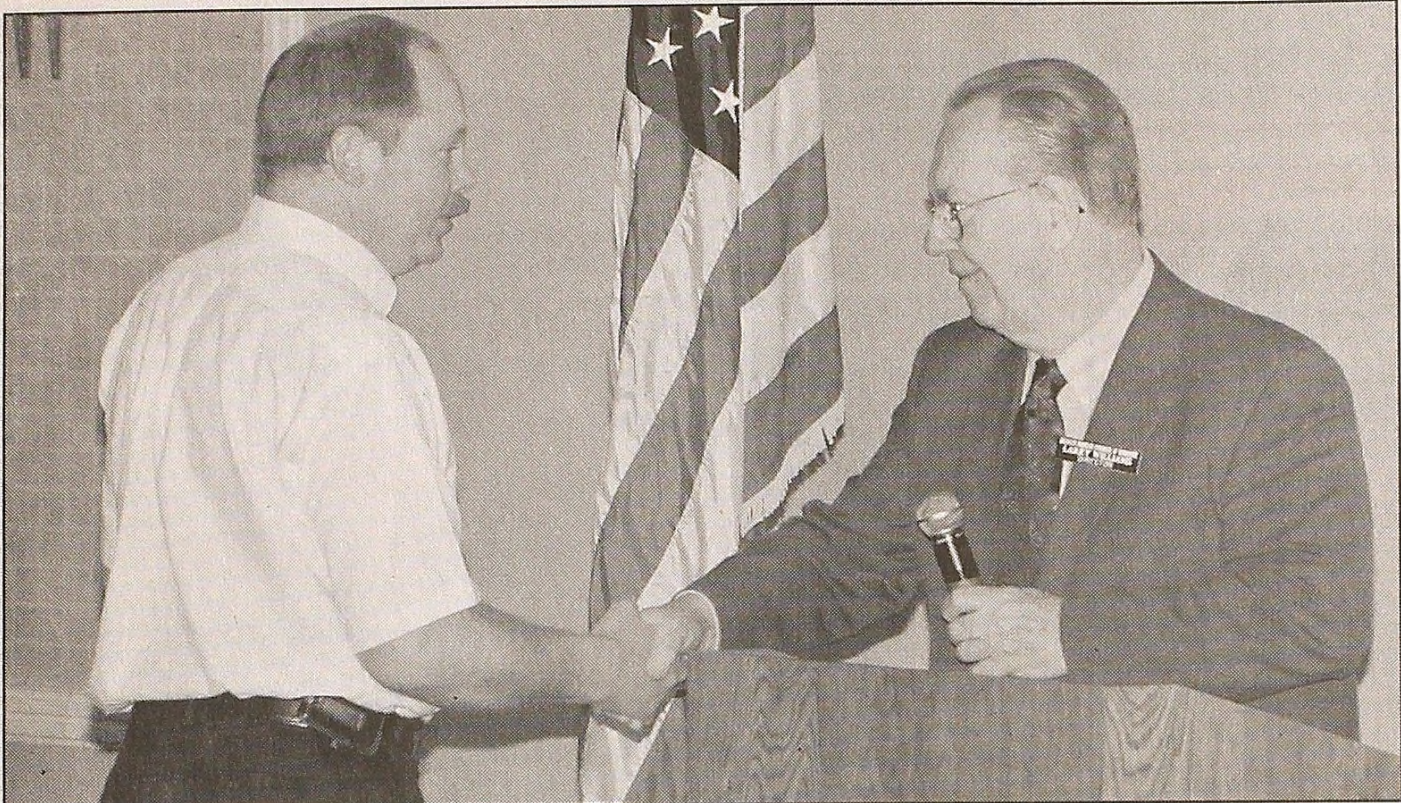
All councilors take home the

same stipend, but the mayor-pro tem takes home about \$10,200, according to city records. The mayor-pro tem – in Romulus it is Randolph Gear – is the council member who receives the highest number of votes in the general election.

The council voted unanimously to accept the findings of the committee at a recent regular board meeting. The vote ensures salaries for all elected officials will remain at the current level until 2009.

During the review, the committee also reviewed the salaries of Mayor Alan Lambert and City Clerk Linda Choate. Their salaries will also be maintained until 2009.

According to section 117.5 of the Romulus City Charter, the committee must review salaries of elected officials periodically.



Number one

Mark Lewkowicz, a member of the Romulus Historical Society, was named the 2008 “Person of the Year” recently at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce State of the City Luncheon. Lewkowicz, a longtime resident of Romulus, was present to accept the award.

Testimony

FROM PAGE 1

cerned that the most vocal opposition may not even be from our area.”

Indian gaming has some support from people in higher office than the mayors of Detroit or Romulus.

Rep. John Dingell (D-Dearborn) said prior to the hearings that he supports the casino in Romulus because the residents clearly want it.

“I will say it again – the people of Romulus approved a referendum supporting the opening of a casino in their community,” he

said. “It would be the only casino in my district. It would be run by a Native American tribe that has a legitimate land claim issue and that also operates a casino in Detroit. Clearly, that tribe is not concerned about the effect a Romulus casino would have on their Detroit operation. A leading economist found that a Romulus casino would not hurt the business of the Detroit casinos. In fact, it might help attract additional tourists to the region.”

Romulus Councilman William Wadsworth said he hopes the additional support will get the projects moving again.

“Mayor Lambert is not up there alone,” he said. “There’s some sup-

port from Carl Levin, from John Dingell – I just hope they’re able to communicate how badly we need the jobs and the investment in Southeast Michigan at this time.”

The current plan for the casinos would will include a 200-room hotel room, restaurants and shops. It would bring about 3,000 jobs to Wayne County, and would provide a dedicated revenue stream for the city to the tune of \$4 to \$10 million annually, according to city estimates.

Lambert said the lack of jobs and the export of auto assemble jobs has taken a toll on the city and the region as a whole.

“With Michigan in a one-state recession, jobs are leaving the

state faster than any other state,” he said. “We live in one of the leading counties in the nation for the number of (home) foreclosures, and it’s getting worse each day.

“A proposal such as the casino could bring 3 to 4,000 jobs and millions of dollars of revenue . . . this is something that has to be done, and somebody has to step in and help.”

Wadsworth said the jobs are the biggest piece of the casinos puzzle.

“We have so much joblessness in the city; its getting difficult for so many families, and the casino jobs would be good, full-time jobs with benefits,” he said. “We need as many of those as we can get.”

News in Brief

More non-stop flights announced

Northwest Airlines has announced it will now offer non-stop flights from Detroit to Wichita, Kan. The new flight marks the third new, non-stop destination added from Detroit Metro Airport in the past several weeks.

The Wichita announcement came on the heels of the previously-announced Northwest plans to begin daily non-stop flights from Detroit to both Monterrey, Mexico, and London Heathrow Airport. All three cities are important business markets for the companies that power Detroit’s economic engine, according to Lester Robinson, the CEO of the Wayne County Airport Authority.

“The flurry of new route announcements in such a short time is a big vote of confidence in Metro Detroit,” he said. “These new flights will provide even greater opportunities for southeast Michigan travelers, especially as we build-up to the launch of daily, nonstop flights from Detroit to both Shanghai and Beijing in early 2009.”

Ford Motor Co. has substantial manufacturing operations in the Monterrey area, while Wichita is a major center for aerospace manufacturing. Heathrow Airport is the busiest airport in Europe and the preferred gateway to Europe’s largest city and financial capital, he added. The Detroit-Wichita flights will begin May 2. Flights from Detroit to London Heathrow are set to begin on May 1.

In mid-2007, Northwest Airlines and China Southern Airlines announced plans to begin new, daily, non-stop flights connecting Detroit with Shanghai and Beijing, respectively. When the new China flights begin in early 2009, Detroit Metro will feature non-stop flights to five of Asia’s largest business centers, as well as 13 daily flights to six cities in Europe and service to six destinations in Mexico, according to information provided by the airport.

Labor counsel rates increase

It will cost the city a little more to negotiate labor contracts beginning this year.

Attorney Steven H. Schwartz asked Romulus City Council members to approve an increase of \$5 per hour for his work on contracts. The raise, which was approved by the council members at their regular Monday night meeting will bring Schwartz’s hourly rate from \$155 to \$160 an hour.

Schwartz made the request in writing to the city, and said that the increase will bring his fee more in line with what he charges other municipalities for legal services.

The fees will be retroactive to any work performed after Jan. 1, according to the measure approved by the council.

— News in briefs is compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Election

FROM PAGE 1

If only two candidates file valid petitions or a pay the nominating fee, they would essentially be selected for the seats unless a write-in candidate emerges to challenge them.

To be eligible for a term on the board, residents must file 40 valid signatures from registered voters or file a \$100 fee with the Romulus City Clerk’s Office by 4 p.m. on Feb. 13.

Wooden recommends that potential candidates obtain more signatures in case some can’t be verified. Verification to make sure a person lives in the city, and that they are registered to vote, is a requirement that must be met, she said.

Lenossi

FROM PAGE 1

for me and the other members of the board.”

One of the best aspects of being a board member was the camaraderie among the trustees, she said.

“If we had a disagreement we never had it out in the open,” she said. “We disagreed often, but we always worked it out privately. I think that helped everyone respected, that we didn’t personally attack each other.”

Lenossi said she also liked learning more about what actually takes place in a classroom.

“I had many opportunities to go into the classroom, and I enjoyed every single one of them,” she said.

Though Lenossi is retiring, she

In the past several years, board members have struggled with balancing the district books amid up-and-down funding from the state, and a difficult enrollment situation.

The school board election will take place May 6.

The Romulus City Clerk’s Office is located inside City Hall at 11111 Wayne Road in Romulus. Petitions can be picked up anytime between the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

is still working. A regular face at the Romulus Senior Center, Lenossi still drives residents to various activities.

“I kept my commercial license,” she said.

School board member Celeste Roscoe said Lenossi will be missed on the board.

“She just has so much history in the school system, not just on the board,” she said. “She knows everyone, and she’s just such a caring person. She’s going to be missed by everyone.”

Lenossi said she will also miss the board members.

“I will probably cry for the first month, but I have other things I can do,” she said. “What’s great about being a board member is that you only have to live in the community and care about students.

“The caring is the most important part,” she said.

Calendar of events

Bowling night announced

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce has announced a date for the third Annual Bowling Night.

The event will take place on Feb. 9 at the Romulus Lanes Bowling Alley. The start time is 11:30 p.m.

Ticket cost is \$40 per couple or \$20 per person, and will include three games of 9 Pin No Tap, first and second game mystery, pizza and door prizes.

Ticket for Bowling Night can be purchased at the chamber office.

The Romulus Lanes Bowling Alley is located at 37452 Huron River Dr.

For more information, call the chamber office at (734) 893-0694, or e-mail the chamber at info@romuluschamber.com.

Grief support available

The Hospice of Michigan will host two series of grief support meetings for those in the community coping with the loss of a loved one.

A series of meetings will take place on at 9 a.m. Sundays through March 16 at the Romulus Wesleyan Church.

Another series of meetings will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Romulus Public Library, through March 20.

Romulus Wesleyan Church is located at 37300 Goddard. The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information about the seminars, call the Hospice of Michigan at (734) 769-4212 or visit the organization’s Web site at www.hom.org.

Health fair offered

Oakwood Health System is sponsoring a Community Health Fair to provide information about living a healthy lifestyle.

The fair will take place from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Feb. 13 at Robichaud High School, 3601 Janet St.

Services provided at the event include blood pressure screening, cholesterol and blood sugar readings, height and weight advice, HIV screenings and immunizations.

Blood pressure screenings are free to all, and cholesterol and blood sugar readings are free for women 18 years old or more, and \$4 for men.

Other representatives on site from various organizations will provide information on an as-needed basis. Participants include the Inkster Teen Health Center, the Senior Alliance, Neighborhood Legal Services, the Oakwood child asthma management education coordinator, a dental hygienist, the American Diabetes Association, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross, among others.

Robichaud High School is located on Janet Street in Dearborn Heights, near Beech Daly Road and Penn Street. Parking will be provided at the school.

For more information, call Oakwood Health System at (313) 565-2389.

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

To publish an event, send information to mtippen@journalgroup.com.

OPINION

When only the very best is good enough

The Plymouth-Canton Community School Board is scheduled to vote next week on which of the two superintendent finalists they want to succeed Jim Ryan.

The board brought back Craig Fiegel, superintendent of Evergreen Park Elementary School District in Chicago and Paul Kadri, superintendent of Neshaminy School District in Langhorne, PA this week for a second round of interviews that also included site visits to schools and meetings with parent and faculty groups.

The second round of interviews and the intervening days give the members of the school board plen-

ty of time to make a careful evaluation of both candidates to determine which will be the best fit.

That's a good thing, too. We hope they come to the same conclusion that we have: it's time to rethink the process and perhaps start over.

It's not that these men are not qualified for the position. Both have a long history of administrative work in school districts, although from admittedly smaller and less diverse districts. The board isn't going to find someone who has had the same type of experience as Ryan, either. People aren't too likely to make lateral moves in this day and age, they want to take the next step, in both

responsibility and salary.

Our issue with these two candidates is that they simply haven't 'wowed' us.

It's a little perplexing, when you break it down. The Plymouth-Canton Community School District is the fourth largest in the state. It has a diverse student and resident base and is always among the best performing districts in Michigan—and beyond. Given the progressive nature of the community and the accolades the district and its programs have earned, you would think top-notch candidates would line up for the job.

Perhaps the relative uncertainty facing school funding has hindered

the search. Perhaps the negative attention the state has drawn on a national scale—through its one-state recession and difficult budget year—have turned many people away.

Or perhaps it's just the nature of the field today. A school superintendent is a rare job.

When you add up the responsibilities—overseeing in this case a student population of more than 16,000, not to mention the numerous staffers at all district buildings—and factor in that just about everything you do happens in the public eye, well, it takes special kind of individual. Maybe not too many people want the hassles that

come with the job to begin with, let alone more of them.

Our suggestion here is to see if Ken Jacobs wants to hold on the interim superintendent title for a little longer. Give him the opportunity to grow into the role and, if not, revisit the issue when the rhythm is right.

When commenting on his prolonged search for a new fire chief, John Werth, director of Northville Public Safety, said: 'I could bring in just anybody, but Northville Township is too good for just anybody.'

The same is true for the Plymouth-Canton Community School District.

Yes, you certainly can fight city hall

The Canton Township Planning Commission made a good compromise on Monday with several amendments proposed for the master plan.

The commissioners voted to expand their tool box, so to speak, but declined to apply those tools to any specific areas—yet.

The proposed changes include developing an office-residential zoning classification to use on parcels that are otherwise difficult to develop. Before that, it was either or. The other change involved eliminating residential zoning from the mixed-use pattern along the south side of Michigan Avenue—which is emerging as a new commercial corridor in Canton.

What they declined to do was apply the residential-office designation to several plots of land along Ford Road, west of Canton Center Road. That was suggested by planning staff but nearly unanimously opposed by residents in the area, including those of the upscale Cobblestone Ridge subdivision, which would have been an island between the two uses.

We can see the justification for it: office space is one market that has been at a near premium lately, particularly along Ford Road in Canton.

Still, the west side of the township has always been talked about as a more rural part of the community. Lots are supposed to be larger, the houses further apart, to soften the entrance into the community.

Plenty of residents showed up at the meeting on Monday. Many were repetitive, but they got their point across and the planning commission listened. They most likely would have made the same choice had nobody shown up—they take their master planning very seriously—but it's nice to know that they are thinking about the future and keeping the current residents happy, too.

Time for some trash talk

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released a report last week that indicated about a third of the trash dumped in Michigan comes from Canada and other states.

Not surprisingly, State Rep. Marc Coriveau (D-Northville) used that to call for more action to fight out-of-state trash, referencing a plan that has been approved by the House of Representatives but stalled in the Michigan Senate.

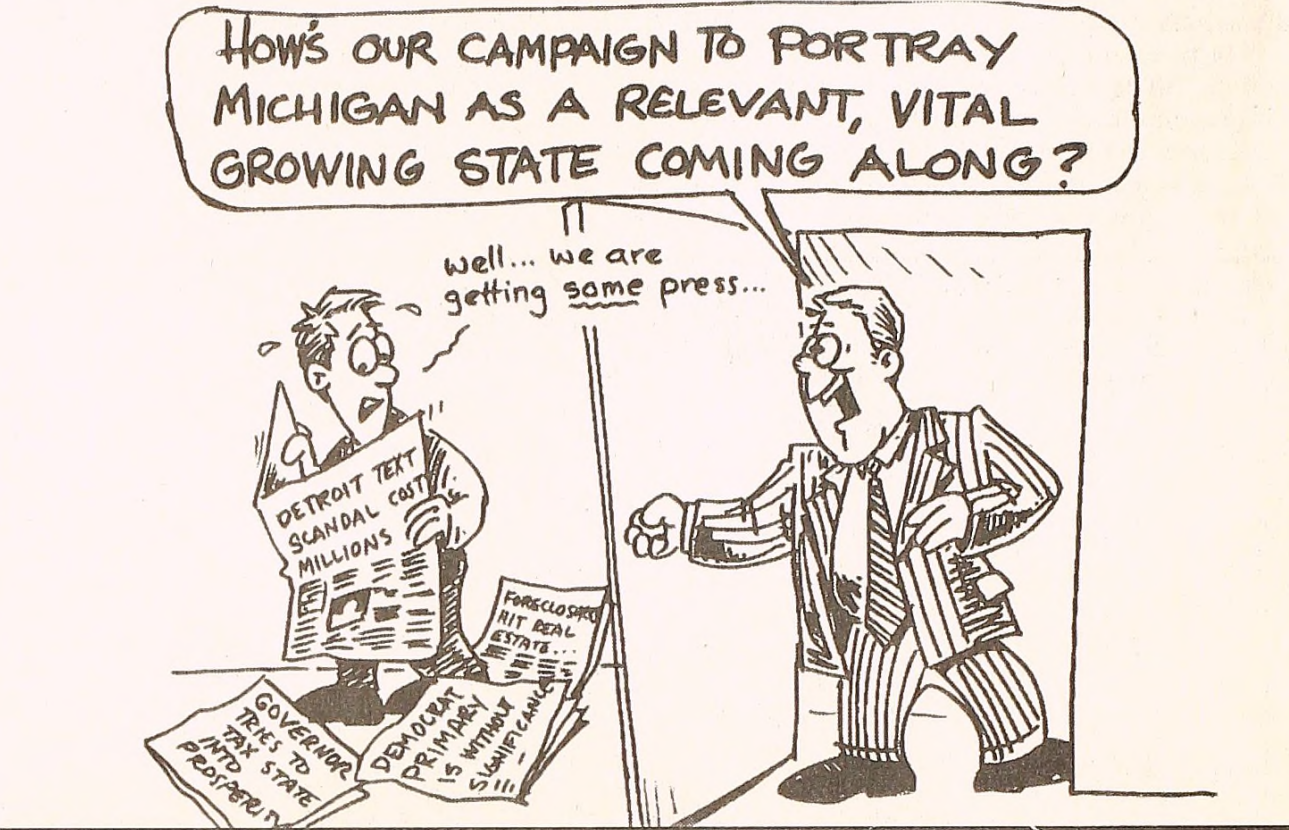
The plan, among other things, would increase tipping fees to \$7.50 a ton, thereby making it less economically feasible for other states to send their refuse here.

It sounds like a reasonable solution, but there is more to the issue than simple economics. Local officials have been greatly concerned about the proposal, calling it a hidden tax increase that would impact municipalities and residents. They've been assured that they would receive their fair share of revenue back from the state in return, but officials in Lansing haven't exactly had a good history of returning revenue to local municipalities of late.

It might be time to realize a simple fact: garbage is a fact of life. It has to go somewhere. Perhaps we can think creatively about the stuff we throw away, such as proposals that State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) has looked into to transform some of it into energy.

We all want to protect our land, our water and our reputation—nobody wants to think of Michigan as a dumping ground. We'd just like to see a few more details and a few more creative proposals before this one becomes a reality.

It might be time to realize a simple fact: garbage is a fact of life. It has to go somewhere.



The right thing to do right now

Throughout the course of his political career, State Sen. Bruce Patterson has earned a reputation of solving problems in a way that makes long term sense.

So it's no surprise that officials in Northville Township turned to him when they suspected that the developers of the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital site might to try annex the property to a neighboring municipality—specifically, the City of Livonia.

It's no surprise, either, that Patterson saw the potential for a problem, not just in Northville, but in townships across the State of Michigan and reacted with proposed legislation to solve the overall problem.

His legislation, drafted during the past several weeks, was introduced in committee Tuesday morning. He hopes to have the Senate vote on it this week and send it to the House next week. That's pretty quick action, and it comes at a good time, too.

For the record, the developers, Real Estate Interests, Inc. and Schostak Brothers Construction (REIS) have never publicly said they intend to annex the property. The closest they've come is to say: 'not at this time' or 'no comment.' Like township officials, I have my doubts. Why else would you install 'security personnel' on the property and then have them register to vote? If recent incidents are any indication, it's not to provide security. Perhaps they're just using the situation as a way to increase their bargaining power.

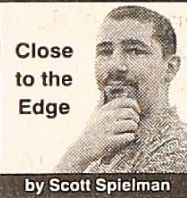
The underlying issue, however, still remains.

Townships are not treated equally as many other municipalities in Michigan. Perhaps it's a fact that the majority of them are in rural—or in the case of Canton, Plymouth and Northville, formerly rural—areas. It could stem from the fact that they don't provide the same kinds of services that cities and villages are required to—most of their roads are maintained by their respective counties. They are, traditionally, more sparsely populated than denser urban areas, too.

Whatever the case, they tend to be treated as second-class citizens and Patterson has done his best during his time in Lansing to reverse that, not just because he lives in a township, but because he sees it as a fairness issue.

That's why it's important he's picked up this legislation and tried to get it approved by both chambers and signed into law. It's not just a knee-jerk reaction to a rumor, it's something that makes sense and needs to be done. As it stands now, the people living on the Northville Township site have more voting rights in the suggested annexation issue than do the officials in charge of overseeing the township. As Patterson said: "That's just not right."

His legislation would give township officials a say in the matter and making them more equal to their city counterparts. It's a good thing to do and the right time to do it.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Giant upset of a perfect season

If you were one of the handful of people who didn't catch the Super Bowl on Sunday, you missed what might go down as the biggest but greatest upset in all of professional sports.

The wild card New York Giants upset the undefeated New England Patriots, 14-10, in one of the best Super Bowls in recent memory.

Super Bowl XLII had it all—suspense, action, drama, underdog heroics. You name it and it was there as if scripted by Hollywood. Then again it doesn't take much to rile up the cheap seats.

On one side there was the city-slicker quarterback Tom Brady (supermodel girlfriend and all) who took his Patriots through an undefeated 18-0 season. Brady led the league with 50 touchdown passes in the regular season—an NFL record—and was primed for his fourth ring at the ripe age of 30.

In the opposite corner was the hillbilly swaggering Giant QB Eli Manning whose pale complexion is due to living in the shadow of his older brother Peyton Manning, who won the Super Bowl last year with his Indianapolis Colts and earned the game Most Valuable Player Award.

Where Brady was New England's golden boy, Eli Manning was New York's goat.

Manning led the league with 27 interceptions in the regular season and was practically run out of the city along with Giant head coach Tom Coughlin after the team lost its first two—nearly three—games and made it into the big game as the lowest seeded wild card draw.

In the end it was the good ole boy Manning that came out on top and, like his brother a year ago, was named the game's MVP. Heck, with all of his southern shyness, you'd almost expect an 'aw shucks' or 'golly, gee' as he stepped up to the podium to hoist the Lombardi Trophy over his head and take possession of the keys to his brand new Cadillac Escalade—like he couldn't afford to buy one himself—as the most valued player.

Well he deserves it all.

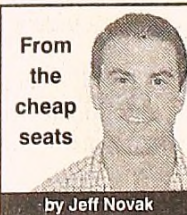
In the weeks leading up to the game I, like many fans of the sport, was torn between teams to cheer for. I realized that it was one of those rare moments where fans of the game couldn't lose.

If the Patriots won, we would have witnessed the "Perfect Season," 19-0. The 1972 Miami Dolphins went 17-0 and won the Super Bowl but no team had ever gone (and might never go) 19-0. It would have been nice to see history made.

On the other hand, unless in this case you are from the Boston area, just about everyone cheers for the underdog. And, if you want to talk about history-making moments, when was the last time two brothers won back-to-back Super Bowls and MVP honors as starting quarterbacks on different teams?

Congrats Giants on a brilliant game. Eli, if you haven't yet, take a deep breath and big step to your right (or left if you prefer) and out from Peyton's shadow.

How does the sunshine feel?



From the cheap seats

by Jeff Novak

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The Journal Newspapers are published Thursdays

at 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan, 48184.

Central office hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Phone 734-467-1900

for general business, advertising or editorial information.

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Committee advises limit of 4 dogs per household

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Members of the Van Buren Township Public Safety Committee agree that there shouldn't be a limit on the number of dogs per household.

Rather than focusing a proposed ordinance change on limiting the number of dogs per household, the focus should be tougher penalties for irresponsible owners, the committee members agreed.

"Personally, I haven't made a decision one way or another," said Andrea Gornick, chairperson of the committee. "I'm a pet owner. I have two dogs and if someone told me I could only have one, I'd have to pick and choose and that'd be difficult, so I hear and feel what people are saying."

Currently, the township has no limit on the number of animals per household, but the goal of animal control ordinance changes would be to better manage dogs more effectively than the existing ordinance allows, officials said.

"We're getting bigger and we need to update the ordinance to get in line with other communities," said Capt. Greg Laurain of the public safety department. "The tide has turned, though, to more enforcement and making that the focus."

The first draft of proposed changes suggested three dogs per household. The second draft suggests four—with more dogs allowed on a special approval exemption basis. Residents can apply and present the case to the committee for review, Gornick said.

"There will probably be another draft for this ordinance, yet," she said. "We'll probably still hear from more dog owners and rescues, too."

It was also suggested that certain shelters or rescues were being targeted, however, officials insisted the changes were not intended to ban any particular breed of dog. Shelters and rescues have not been decided upon, they said.

Laurain said the police department doesn't really receive many complaints or reports from the area shelters.

"We don't have many problems (with shelters), he said.

The next township public safety committee meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday when officials will review the ordinance policy in regard to shelters/rescues.

"Maybe we need to be innovative," said Laurain.

"We're only a recommending body. We can either support or not support an idea, but we don't make policy," added Gornick.



Man of the Year

Chesley Odom of Belleville recently won the "Man of the Year" award and the "Golden Plunger" from the St. Anthony's Church for both his community and church volunteer work. It was presented during the recent 'Night at the Copacabana' event during the annual St. Anthony's Men's Club dance.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:30 PM to consider the following:

An ordinance to amend the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92, as amended to establish new regulations for Re-Zoning with Conditions as follows:

ARTICLE XVIII to include a new subsection titled SECTION 18.09 – RE-ZONING WITH CONDITIONS.

A complete text of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the Township Department of Development Services Office. Written comments will be accepted at the Development Services Department until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing.

In spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with disability should fee free to contact the Development Services Department at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 1, 2008
Publish: February 7, 2008
February 14, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 to consider the following:

An Ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92, as amended of the Charter Township of Van Buren to amend the following:

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.24B WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES.

A complete text of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the Township Department of Development Services Office. Written comments will be accepted at the Development Services Department until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing.

In spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with disability should fee free to contact the Development Services Department at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 1, 2008
Publish: February 7, 2008
February 14, 2008

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JANUARY 14, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-002

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 7, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-003

4A. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Emily Yvonne Williams.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-004

4B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Hubert Staten.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Barden, supported by Burcroff to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-005

5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Charles Kirby, Public Safety Director and award bid 07/08-08, four (4) digital cameras for the Police Department to the only bidder, Adray Appliance in the amount of \$4,672.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-006

5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Charles Kirby, Public Safety Director and award bid 07/08-12, three (3) vehicles for the Police Department to the lowest bidder, Jorgensen Ford, in the amount of \$64,103.50.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-007

5C. Motion by Barden, supported by Bragg to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Charles Kirby, Public Safety Director and authorize the purchase of five (5) hand held Motorola radio transceivers for the Public Safety Department through the State Bid, from Herkimer Radio Services in the amount of \$15,611.90.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
6A1. No Action Taken.

08-008

6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to Request Wayne County Department of Public Services to grant permission to close north and south bound Wayne Road from Smith to, Michelle for the Martin Luther King Day Walk, to be held on Monday, January 21, 2008, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending approximately at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-009

6A3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to schedule a Study Session for the Downtown Development Authority, on January 28, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., to be held in the Romulus City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Roadl, Romulus, Michigan 48174, to discuss limited parking for Goddard Road in the core downtown.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

9. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg thanking Councilman Harry Crout for having served as Council representative on the City of Romulus Pension Committee; and to appoint Councilman John Barden as the new Council representative to the City Pension Committee.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova.
Nays - Crout, Wadsworth.
Abstain - Gear.
Motion Carried.

08-011

11. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds listed in Warrant 08-01 in the total amount of Six Hundred, Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Nine Dollars and Seventy-Nine Cents (\$602,359.79).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Crova.
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously,
Respectfully submitted,

Linda R.Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on January 14, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: February 7, 2008

THE SCENE

Over Her Dead Body offers little

It's hard to expect much from a romantic comedy in which pre-views showcase a ghostly bride critique the make-out session between her former fiancé and the new woman in his life.

That's probably a good thing since in *Over Her Dead Body*, that's precisely what you get—not much.

Ashley (Lake Bell), a caterer/psychic, is startled to open her apartment door to find two strangers, Henry (Paul Rudd) and Chloe (Lindsay Sloane), looking for her help. Years before, Henry's fiancée Kate (Eva Longoria Parker) had been killed in a freak accident involving a falling angel statue on what was to have been their wedding day and he couldn't recover from her loss. His sister, Chloe, eventually tires of his brooding and bullies him into meeting with the spiritualist in the hopes of finding him a sense of closure.

The strong-willed Kate, however, has some problems of her own. After her death, she was brought into a pure white room to speak with a woman, presumably an angel. Self-centered, bossy, and rude, Kate can't be bothered to listen. She winds up back on earth with work to do and no idea what it is or how to do it. With nothing else to do, she decides to look out for Henry's best interests. Heaven help any woman who tries to come between her and her fiancé in any way.

As suits a screwball comedy, chaos ensues as Ashley and Henry attempt to cope with the situation. A tangential—and wholly forgettable—subplot involving Ashley's business partner and longtime friend, Dan (Jason Biggs), is thrust on audiences near the end of the film.

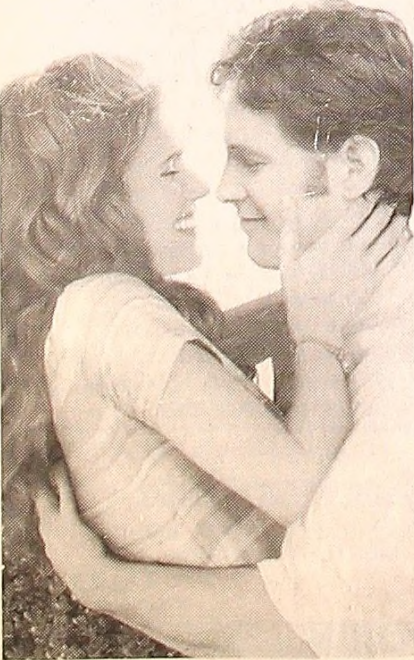
It's a movie that would be hard to describe without one simple sound—"Eahhhh". It is a so-so film no matter how you slice it. Some audiences have criticized it, correctly, for being derivative and predictable. The story is as shallow as the proverbial mud puddle and spends a lot of time treading water with excess scene footage.

For all that, the casting helps save the film and imbue it with some simple charm. Lake Bell, who is best known for stints on television programs including *Boston Legal* and *The Practice*, shines in the role of Ashley. Although the plot gives her character little depth, she forces the character of Ashley to become interesting, well rounded, and believable. Paul Rudd, best known for roles in films like *Knocked Up* and *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*, plays it surprisingly straight as Henry and succeeds in making his character less of a caricature.

As Kate, Eva Longoria Parker did her best to make the bratty, demanding ghost funny and, in a twisted way, understandable, but it

See **Body**, page 7

Reviewed By
Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer



Hope Boykin strikes a pose.



Alvin Ailey dancers demonstrate a perfect formation. Four members of the 30-member world-renowned repertory troupe include Hope Boykin, Tina Monica Williams, Antonio Douthit and Abdur-Rahim Jackson.

Famed Alvin Ailey dancers visit students

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Dance should be given back to the people.

That's what the late Alvin Ailey, the founder of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, told anyone who would listen during the thousands of performances of his revolutionary modern ballet repertory troupe.

Last week, the four members of the dance theater gave back their formidable skills for modern dance at a performance and demonstration at Inkster High School. The district had requested the theater come to the high school as part of the overall arts program, said Superintendent of Schools Tom Maridada.

Members of the dance theater were in town for a limited engagement at the Detroit Opera House, and visited about 10 high schools as part of the ongoing education initiative, said Hope Boykin, a dancer with the group.

"Mr. Ailey believed dance came from the people, and therefore, it needs to be given back," said Boykin, who has been a dancer with the theater for eight years.

"If we didn't go to schools, students who have inside of them a passion for modern dance may not even know it, especially if they don't have the resources to attend a performance."

During the presentation, which involved snippets of various dance sequences choreographed by Ailey and other past and present members of the theater, the four dancers performed with students to demonstrate the

basics of how a performance comes together, from the choreography to the finished show.

On the school stage, Boykin led a group of students through some moves, and asked them to introduce steps, which she then choreographed into an overall routine.

"We find that some of the students are shy at first, but we were able to get some of them on stage, which means they're listening to us," Boykin said.

Many milestones

Alvin Ailey, and African American dancer who grew up in Rogers, Texas, founded his dance troupe as the American Ballet Theater in 1958. It was the first group that consisted mainly of African American dancers, and went on to acclaim on both the national and world stage.

"We were the first dance theater allowed in Russia in the 1970s," Boykin told the students.

Some of the performances include Ailey's tour de force "Revelations," which he choreographed in 1960. The performance highlights some of the things Ailey saw growing up in Texas, including the role of the church, and discrimination.

Other include "Groovin' to Nobody's Business," a ballet written about the goings-on on a New York City subway.

Antonio Douthit, who along with Boykin and dancers Tina Monica Williams and Abdur-Rahim Jackson appeared at the school, said that dance themes aren't always serious.

Ailey died in 1989. He left the theater in the hands of Judith

Jamison, a world-renowned dancer and choreographer, and the theater has expanded.

Today, the theater employs 30 dancers, 15 male and 15 female.

Master class

After the performance and demonstration, members of the Inkster High School Dance team and a handful of other high school students were invited to attend a master class taught by Boykin.

"Being able to teach students is wonderful," she said.

When teaching a class, the dancers always look for boys who have talent because the field of dance doesn't have many men.

"When you talk to women, they've been dancing since they were about 3 years old," she said. "With the men, they usually start when they're older – or when they are old enough to make a decision that this is something they'd like to pursue."

School visits comprise a big part of an Ailey dancer's day, Boykin said. The dancers are committed to the school visits through the Ailey Arts in Education and Community Program, which exposes students who otherwise may not see a performance to dance.

The high school students, who learned to modify their movements, learned quite a bit from the class, such as remembering to stay in proper form even if they're the last dancers in line.

Boykin said that is something that separates the good dancers from the great. "Always remember that no matter where you are on stage, you're still in front."

Almost, Maine is certain fun

The perfect antidote for modern love skeptics, John Cariani's *Almost, Maine* opens at Tipping Point Theatre just in time for Valentine's Day.

Directed by Christina Johnson, the light-hearted play explores the many different incarnations of love through eight, two-person vignettes, reminding us that what defines love is generally left up to the players themselves, and is rarely a one-sided story.

The play opens with a shy young couple confessing their love for one another. When the girl (Courtney Myers) runs away from her boyfriend (Jeff Steger) in a flutter of confusion, the scene fades into another strange love story, between a woman (Jennifer Lee-Steger) still clinging to her dead husband's memory, and the stranger (Joseph Albright) who falls in love with her.

With each vignette, another season of love is explored, following the residents of the fictional northern town of Almost through courtships, marriage and heart-break. Audience members find themselves swept up in the strange aim of cupid's arrow, and surprised again and again by the phenomenon of modern couples actually getting it right, and making it work.

The theater itself is on the small side, with many patrons a mere 6 feet from the actual stage. Rather than a detriment, the size of the venue actually helps create a cozy intimacy for the piece. Audience members find themselves feeling as if they are part of the action which, of course, they nearly are.

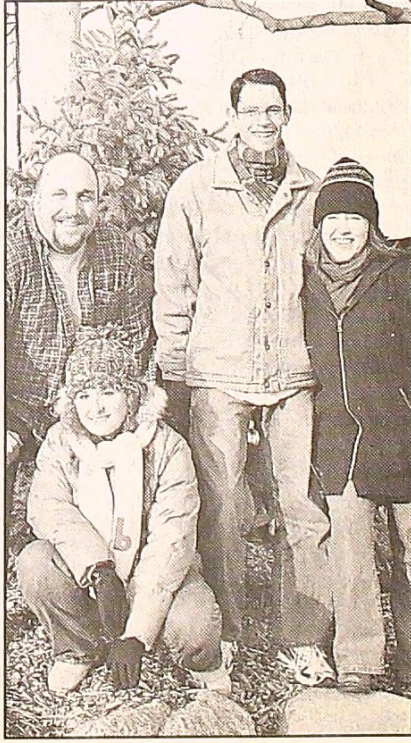
Still, the space is well used and cleverly blocked, with silent stagehands telling a mini-tale themselves, gradually falling in love while moving around benches and ironing boards. Johnson is incredibly astute in this regard, and the play reverberates with her subtle direction, allowing the comic serendipity of falling in love to wind its way through the lives of the characters.

The acting is also excellent, with each actor able to flesh out multiple roles nicely. While Myers is able to illuminate the hidden vulnerability of her characters, Lee-Steger's brave fragility tugs at audience heartstrings. Jeff Steger brings impressive emotional range to his roles, while Albright's engaging likeability is a natural scene-stealer.

Admittedly, this is not a play for the tragically hip, those scoffing refugees reared on reruns of Seinfeld, who prefer their love Sopranos style, with lots of high drama and pot throwing. In the almost town of Almost, Maine, love is drawn in big loopy capital letters, and if it doesn't conquer all then it, at least, is the uncontested champion.

I'll admit I was initially a little skeptical of so sunny a play, but if you can stifle your inner ironic imp, *Almost* scratches a nearly for-

See **Body**, page 7



THE SCENE

Back from the dead?

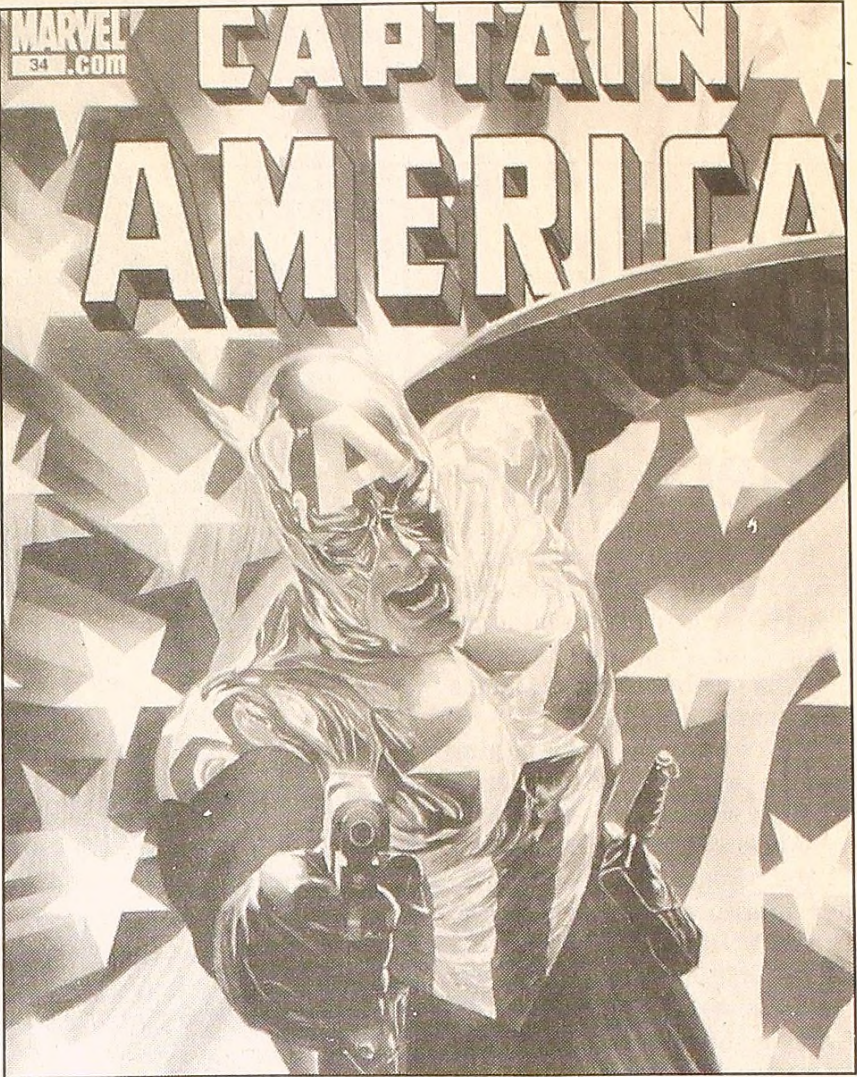
Captain America's successor is named

Scott Spielman
Editor

Terrorists and super-villains beware: Captain America is back. Marvel Comics named the successor to Steve Rogers—who held the title since he was created about 60 years ago—this month as part of an ongoing storyline that has shaken up the comic book industry. More than a year ago, Marvel shocked fanboys across the globe when Rogers was assassinated at the end of the Civil War story arc. Since then, the title has carried on without its lead figure—and it's a testament to the skill of writer Ed Brubaker that the series has not suffered in the interim. If anything, it's actually gained in popularity. This issue and its expected revelation is a perfect example of why. Shortly before Rogers' death, Brubaker brought back his old partner, James 'Bucky' Barnes.

Presumed dead—as was Cap himself—at the end of World War II, it turned out that Barnes had been rescued by Soviet officers, brought back, brainwashed and transformed into a highly skilled assassin code named The Winter Soldier. Brubaker introduced another facet to Barnes' character, which is why Cap needed a partner to begin with. Rogers' moral code prohibited him from doing the kinds of things that soldiers in wartime are sometimes called on to do. Barnes took on those dark tasks. Rogers and his cast of secondary characters managed to track down Barnes and free him of his mind control. So when it became clear that Rogers was actually dead and Marvel would not bring him back to life—the fate of many other 'expired' characters through the years—it was all but guaranteed who his successor would be, right?

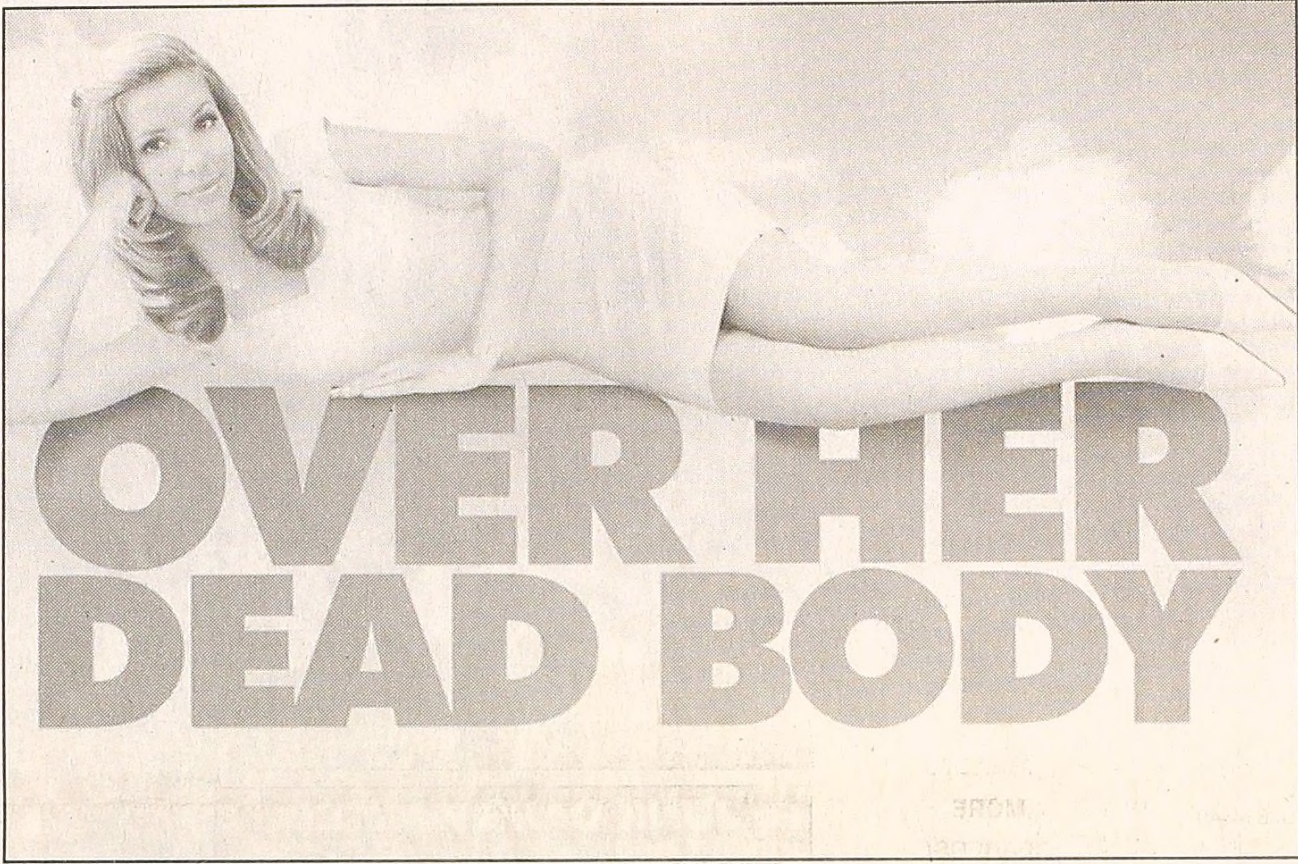
Brubaker, though, has shown that there's still plenty of suspense in the journey even if you know the final destination. The pacing of this issue and the ultimate full-figure revelation—which doesn't come until about halfway through—show why he is one of the top scribes in the Marvel bullpen. We catch glimpses of Barnes in his slightly altered uniform. His face is in shadows, but the star on his chest gleams in the half-light. He is reticent to take on the role of his mentor, considered to be the greatest hero of all time. Brubaker will have plenty of fodder for storylines in the upcoming months and years. Barnes' persona is darker than Rogers'. He has a pistol strapped to his hip, a knife and baton dangling from his belt. He is a grim face for grim times. The old Captain America may be dead, but the new one looks promising enough.



Body

FROM PAGE 7

doesn't work—she just couldn't overcome the mindless drivel that passed as her dialogue. It's just one more of the many criticisms that could be lobbed at writer/director Jeff Lowell. Lowell has produced episodes of television programs such as *Spin City*, *The Drew Carey Show*, and the *George Carlin Show* in the past. Audiences will likely have a pretty good idea where the film is headed before they ever reach the theater. Whether they want to take that ride as a brief pleasure trip or head elsewhere with a different film will be a matter of personal preference. It might be wiser to rent *Topper* and wait for this one to hit cable. *Over Her Dead Body* is rated PG-13.



Almost

FROM PAGE 7

gotten itch, the one that really wants to believe in everlasting love, tucked away in the same closet where most adults keep their junior high love letters, and yearbooks where BFFs promised to KIT and swore never, ever to change. In this jaded social reality, the earnest hopefulness of *Almost*, Maine is almost *avante garde*. See it and remember a time before *Sex and the City* and urbane independence became the yardstick for healthy adult relationships. *Almost, Maine* is showing at the Tipping Point Theater through March 8 with shows Thursday through Sunday. For more information or tickets, contact (248) 347-0003, or visit www.tippingpointtheatre.org.

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01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
 & Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted
31. Help Wanted Sales
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55. Estate Sales
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61. Misc. Items
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119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries



BITTNER, Edward Lyle, age 80, died January 21, 2008. He was born August 19, 1927. He leaves ti cherish his memory, his loving wife, Wanda; son, Gordon (Karen) Baldwin; brother, Larry (Marsha) Bittner; sisters, Marlene Knudson and Donna (Lavern) Steiger; grandsons, David & John Baldwin; seven step children, Rosa Morrison, Chavonda Stewart, Barbara F. Williams, Clifford Hutcheson jr., Cheryl Hutcheson, Trenna Jackson and Lloyd Daniels, and a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Everton L. Montague Sr. officiating. Interment was at Knollwood Cemetery, Canton, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

age 71, died January 19, 2008. He was born December 15, 1936. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; his daughter, Charlette Fuquay or Evansville, IN; sons Jason and Robert Fuquay and Tyrone Chapple of Detroit, MI; Godson, Cushan Manson of Detroit, MI; 4 sisters-in-law, 4 brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Blanche Renee Fuquay, mother, Blanche Thompkins; uncles, James and Doc Thompkins from Evansville, IN. Services were held at the Ecorse Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ecorse, MI with Pastor William Hughes officiating. Interment was at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



LINDSEY, Katie Mae, age 97. She leaves to cherish her memory, sons, Jasper (Dorothy) Lindsey of Canton, MI, Alexander of Inkster, MI and Gary (Patricia) Lindsey of West Bloomfield, MI; 9 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren, 5 great-great grandchildren, 2 sisters-in-law, 1 brother-in-law and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Services were held at

Hartford Memorial Baptist church, Detroit, MI with Dr. Charles G. Adams officiating. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

SINCLAIR, Charles J. January 28, 2008 age 79 of Wayne. Dear uncle of Norma Olsen, Joan Risher, June Pech, John M. Russell, Jr. and William Goen. Brother of the late Mary Goen, Janet Russell and Georgene Riggs. Also survived by 12 Great nieces and nephews and 7 Great Great nieces and nephews. Family received friends at the Uht Funeral Home, Westland with cremation rites and burial at Glenwood Cemetery to follow. Please visit and post a tribute at www.uhtfuneralhome.com

4. Monuments & Cemetery Lots

Two burial spaces for sale- \$1,600 for both Knollwood Memorial Park Peace Garden Canton, MI Call 734-941-2678

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30. Help Wanted

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31. Sales Help Wanted

ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED The Journal Newspapers has immediate openings for sales representatives to serve our circulation area. Candidates must have reliable transportation and a willing attitude. Base plus commission. Newspaper or media sales experience preferred, but will train the right candidate. Please send resume detailing experience and availability to: Susan Willett Journal Newspaper Group P.O. Box 339 Wayne, MI 48184

40. Business Opportunity

Looking for more business referrals? The Masters of Opportunity chapter of BNI meets every Friday from 7am to 8:30am at the Wayne Tree Manor Visitors are Welcome. Call Trish at: 734-890-1250

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42. Health and Fitness

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59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 2/20/08 at 10:30am, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at National Storage Center 39205 Ford Rd. Westland, MI 48185. Unit #127-Dawn Bennett: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #276-Jim Jacoby: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #327-J Miller: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #528-Gary Bates: Recreational items, household items, misc. goods. Notice is hereby given that on 2/20/08 at 11:30am, the

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following will be sold by competitive bidding at: Stor-N-Lock Self Storage 7840 N. Wayne Rd. Westland, MI 48185

Unit #M34-Eulonda Hunter: Household items

Notice is hereby given that on 2/21/08 at 1:30pm, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at: The Storroom Self Storage 40600 Michigan Ave. Canton, MI

Unit #607-Melvin Ball: Household goods, misc. goods;

Unit #834-Patricia Mohrlock: Household goods, misc. goods.

Notice is hereby given that on 2/21/08 at 4:30pm, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Store-It Self Storage, 29180 Van Born, Westland, MI 48186:

Unit #B89-Jeanne Estes: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #104-John Lightfoot: Misc. goods; Unit #152-Angela Zajac: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #47-Jeffrey Jackson: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #143-Deborah Adams: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #117-Robby Lincoln: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #155-CTS Transmissions: misc. goods; Unit #162-Jon Gambord: Misc. goods; Unit #165-Ann Marie Peterson: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #206-Clarence Lake: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #224-Crystal Joyce: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods; Unit #73-Frankie Cole: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #17-Nathan Henderson: Misc. goods; Unit #22-Adrian Miller Jr.: Household goods, misc. goods.

Notice of Public Sale. On February 20, 2008 at 4:30 PM, U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Rd., Romulus, MI will sell following units to the highest bidder by Cash. U-Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All items in storage units contain household items unless otherwise mentioned: A18-Sheila Gilmore D19-John E. Spink III D60-Richard L. McClain D68-Nichole Lynn Oneill E23-Cornelius Lemire E48-Donna Marie Grant

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Feb. 27, 2008 at 11:00 AM at:

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1HGES16532L006497
1992 Pontiac
1G2HX53L7N1288493
1995 Ford
1FALP62W4SH4203734
1994 Pontiac
1G2HX52L7R4262658
2001 Ford
1FAPP53U11A120618
1994 Chrysler
1C3EU453XRF237520

Lincoln
N/A (Parts)
1996 Ford
1FTCR14U4TPA44567
1994 Ford
1FTEX15Y0RKB78952
1991 Dodge
1B3XC46K2ND701484
1973 GMC
TLC246F708538
1988 Ford
2FAPP36X9JB217259
1999 Plymouth
2P4FP25B0XR415732
1998 Chrysler
3C3EL55H4TT324900
1996 Chrysler
3C3EL55H4TT129
1992 Ford
1FACP57U9NA145642

Please Note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges

Public Auto Auction
Feb. 13, 2008 - 8AM
Westland Service Towing
300 S. Newburgh
Westland, MI 48186

2000 Ford EXP
4Dr Blue
1FMZU74E9YZA82677
1995 Ford Contour
4Dr Red
1FALP67L3SK179451
1998 Ford Escort ZX2
2Dr Red
3FAKP1132WR247635
1992 Chev. Cavalier
4Dr White
1G1JC5446N7112511
Note: Vehicles are Canton impounds

Public Auto Auction
Feb. 12, 2008-10 AM
Westland Service Towing
300 S. Newburgh
Westland, MI 48186

93 Chev. Cavalier
2Dr Burgundy
1G1JC1447P7254622
2001 Kia Sephia
4Dr White
KNAFB121015085469

1993 Pontiac Gr. Prix
2Dr Red
1G2WJ14T9PF217866
1996 Lincoln Continental
4Dr Green
1LNLM97V1TY731528
1992 Eagle Talon
2Dr White
4ECS44R3NE055424
1993 Mazda 626
4Dr Gray
1YVGF22AXP5155440
1988 BMW
4Dr Black
WBADK8301J9890413
1994 Dodge Caravan
Blue
1B4GH44R7RX334549
1997 Chev. Lumina
4Dr Blue
2G1WL52M0V1164321

1998 Dodge Neon
4Dr Purple
3BES47YXWT297763
1996 Merc. Gr. Marquis
4Dr Blue
2MELM75W9TX632202
1999 Ford Taurus
4Dr Red
1FAPP53S8XA292510
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Sports

Mustangs trample Franklin

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The way the Northville Mustangs played on Saturday in a make-up game against Franklin made observers wonder how they lost six games this season.

The team was a well-oiled scoring machine that raced to an impressive 67-48 victory over the Patriots.

"We moved the ball and scored points, obviously," said Northville Coach Darrel Schumacher. "We present them a problem because of our size so that puts the match-up in our direction. I liked the fact that we shared the ball and nobody was selfish. Nobody wants to be the superstar, they just want to play together and win together."

Eleven players scored for Northville.

Senior Greg Hasse led the team with 16 points. He scored eight of the team's first 12 points, leading them to a 12-4 advantage through the first half of the first quarter.

Senior Kyle Asher added a career-high 12 points. He drained a triple in the first quarter to put the Mustangs up, 24-8. Senior Steve Anderson had two early steals that he drove the length of the court for points. He finished with 11 points.

Northville turned over the ball over early in the second frame. Franklin capitalized with a 9-2 run to close the gap to 11 points. Northville regained composure and made it out of the half up, 37-25.

"We still have to—and we will work on it and work on it—take care of the ball,"

Schumacher said. "We had a let down in the second when they pressured us a little bit. There's no reason we should give the ball up that easy. It's just a lack of concentration, soft passing and forcing instead of taking the open stuff."

The 'Stangs outscored the Patriots, 18-10, in the third to add to their lead.

Schumacher said this was a good game to take a look at the future of the Northville Mustangs.

Relief players like juniors Eric Maise, Scott Wagner and Nick Diegel and senior Matt Cassidy received some rare playing time.

Cassidy, in training to relieve senior point guard Dan Kirkpatrick at times, finished with four points. Maise added four and Diegel split a pair from the line to go with some big rebounds.

Northville rebounded from a disappointing 47-38 overtime loss to Walled Lake Western last Tuesday night.

Northville relinquished a 29-21 lead at the end of three quarters for the loss. The team gave up 20-plus turnovers in the fourth that allowed the Warriors to battle back to a 38-all tie at the end of regulation, according to Schumacher.

With 1:54 left in overtime, Western's Sean Armstrong nailed a triple that eventually secured the win.

Kirkpatrick led the Mustangs with 17 points.

The Mustangs have their work cut out for them when they host Lakes champion, John Glenn (10-0), at 7 tonight.



Northville's Greg Hasse drives to the basket against Franklin on Saturday. He scored 16 points to help lead the Mustangs to a 67-48 victory. Photo by Jeff Novak

"We're hoping to be able to compete with them," Schumacher said. "They are a very good team and Dan (Young) has always been a very good coach." Northville starts conference playoffs next week.



Northville sophomore Jackie Konopka goes for a layup against Franklin defenders on Saturday. Northville lost the game, 49-28. Photo by Jeff Novak

Frozen offense sinks Lady 'Stangs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Mother Nature has a way of affecting everything.

It even disrupted the sports world when the latest rounds of snow and ice blew through the area closing schools and canceling events on Friday.

There might as well have been a layer of ice covering Northville's targeted hoop in their home gym as the Lady Mustangs looked to thaw from the winter storms when they faced off against Franklin Saturday.

Baskets were a rare commodity and Northville fell to the Lady Patriots, 49-28.

One missed basket snowballed into two and two into three, leaving the Mustangs with just four points in the first quarter—a slippery slope they couldn't climb back up. Franklin found the basket three more times than Northville. Samantha Floyd nailed a triple at 4:19 to give the Patriots a 7-0 lead.

Northville never lit up the scoreboard until the 3:48 mark, when Chelsea Atzinger dropped in two free throws. She scored the only Northville field goal, too. Franklin led 13-4 at the end of one.

Northville's offense continued to struggle in the second. Franklin

opened the frame with a 7-0 run and a 20-4 advantage.

"We didn't hit any shots and it just compounded after that," said Northville Coach Pete Wright. "Once you miss one or two and then everyone gets a little tentative then they hit one or two and all of a sudden you're in a big-time bind. It's tough to get out when you get yourself stuck in a hole like that."

Northville had a moment where the momentum looked to swing their way when junior Erin Hughes knocked down a triple with 47 seconds left in the half. It was a fleeting moment that the team failed to take advantage of they turned the ball over on the next possession.

"Once you get the momentum you have to make the next play whether it's a defensive rebound or a stop or another shot," Wright said. "All night long we didn't make the next play."

The Patriots carried a 26-11 lead into the locker room at the half.

The third period was scoreless until Franklin's Brianna Taylor hit a shot at 4:10. The teams traded baskets the rest of the way for Franklin keep a 35-17 lead with just eight minutes left to play.

Northville had their best quarter in the fourth but so did Franklin. The Patriots outscored the Mustangs, 14-11, to put the game

away.

Northville, because of the snow day, went into the game cold without a practice on Friday. That was no excuse, according to Wright.

"It's hard when you don't practice but Franklin was in the same boat, too," he said. "They didn't have any problems."

Northville had problems guarding the freshmen twin duo of Brianna and Brittany Taylor. The two combined for 30 points. Brianna led with 20.

"They are certainly tremendously talented girls and they play very well together—each one knows where the other is all of the time," Wright said. "It seems like the ball gets up in the air loose and all of a sudden they find the other one. They are hard to deal with, inside, outside and at both ends of the floor."

Senior Sarah Stern and sophomore Jackie Konopka each had five points for Northville.

The Western Lakes Activities Association started conference playoffs for the girls this week. Northville faced off against Walled Lake Northern on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time.

The Lady Stangs will play at home at 7 p.m. on Friday against an undecided opponent.

Wayne blasts Patriots, 97-67

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Every week the Wayne Memorial varsity basketball squad reminds everyone that they are a force to be reckoned with.

They proved it again last week when they beat host Franklin, 97-67, last Tuesday.

"We played well," said Wayne coach Wayne Woodard. "It was enjoyable seeing all the players score. It's always nice to get all the kids in the score book."

He admitted that the 97 points posted is the most by a Wayne varsity team in his eight years as head coach. He didn't remember the exact year but he recalled coaching a Wayne junior varsity team that racked up 99 and 97 points in the same season back in the late 80s or early 90s.

To score that many points is almost expected from the fast-paced style the Zebras play.

"It's more than about playing fast," Woodard said. "It's about playing smart and with discipline. We aim not to turn the ball over more than 13 times a game and we're always pretty close to that.

And we try to force at least 20 turnovers and we're usually pretty close to that."

Everything about the Franklin game was fast.

The Zebras raced to a 25-10 advantage at the end of the first period. They didn't let up in the second and out-played, out-hustled and out-scored the Patriots 22-12 for a hearty, 47-22, half time lead.

The defense let up some in the second but it didn't matter as Wayne continued their offensive route, outscoring Franklin 20-19 in the third and 30-26 in the final stanza.

Four players reached double digits in the outing. Senior Jeremy Lovelady led with 16. Senior Mike Lee added, 14; Matt Lewis, 12, off four triples; and Martez Abney, 11. Junior Jesse Dorow had eight.

Wayne is 9-0 and wrapped up the Western division championship last week and are 12-2 overall.

Friday's Coming Home game against Plymouth was postponed due to inclement weather and rescheduled for Monday. The results were unavailable at press time.

Wayne hosts Stevenson in a

crossover contest at 7 p.m. on Friday before starting the conference playoffs next week.

Lady Zebras fall to Patriots

The Lady Zebras lost their home bout with Lady Patriots, 53-35, last Tuesday night. Trenia Barbee scored 15 for Wayne in the effort. The Lady Zs fell to 3-11 overall and started their conference play this week.

More Sports

John Glenn won both of its contests last week, starting with a 76-66 victory over Stevenson last Tuesday.

The Rockets led 61-39 after three but 27-point surge by the Spartans required Glenn's starters to hop back in. Senior Earl Hardison led the Rockets with 21. Senior Stefan Marken added 17 and junior Derrick Crosby 16.

Glenn improved to 14-1 overall and 10-0 in division play with a 52-40 victory against Churchill on Saturday.

Marken scored 23 for Glenn and senior Keshawn Martin added 17.

Glenn is at Northville at 7 p.m. on Thursday.



Bowling for McGowan

It was a long time coming but Inkster senior point guard Victoria McGowan verbally committed to play basketball on a full scholarship at Bowling Green State University last week. McGowan averaged 32-points per game and recently scored 34 in The Lady Vikings' 68-44 win over Allen Park where she also had eight rebounds and six assists. Her official signing is scheduled for sometime in April, according to Inkster Coach Peggy Carr. Photo by

SPORTS

Romulus holds Belleville

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Lady Tigers were one possession away from beating the visiting Romulus Lady Eagles on Tuesday but came up just short in the 45-42 loss.

With 12 seconds left to play and the Lady Tigers down, 43-42, Belleville sophomore guard DeVonya Johnson let loose a pass that was intercepted by Romulus senior point guard Christina Barnett who took it down court and ended the game.

Belleville actually led, 24-21, at the half, according to Belleville coach Kevin Edwards, but mistakes led to the Romulus comeback and win.

"We made some mistakes down the stretch," he said. "We have to keep improving on defense. I'm

pleased with the girls and how they've come along. We knew it would be a season of learning."

Improvement was evident. Romulus beat the Lady Tigers by 20 points the last time the teams met on Dec. 7, 2007. Belleville was also without the experience and toughness of junior guard Mariah Gordon.

"It really affected us with her not playing," Edwards said.

Johnson led the Tigers with 12 points.

Romulus senior Jasmine Brown led all scorers with 14.

Both the Tigers and Eagles had their Friday night games cancelled due to winter storms but are back in action this week.

Belleville hosts Allen Park at 7 p.m. on Thursday and visit Dearborn at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

Romulus hosts Dearborn at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and will visit

It really affected us with her not playing.

Kevin Edwards



Northville sophomore Jackie Konopka goes for a layup against Franklin defenders on Saturday. Northville lost the game, 49-28. Photo by Jeff Novak

Belleville beats Truman, falls to Pioneer

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Ann Arbor Pioneer proved they deserve to be ranked by some as the No.2 team in the state when they dismantled host Belleville, 72-55, on Saturday.

Pioneer led by just seven points at the half and by only eight after three—both deficits that Belleville should have easily overcome—but a few mistakes led Ann Arbor to the 17-point victory.

"Pioneer is a really good team, I have to give them that," said Belleville Coach Don Hickman. "They're playing confidently right now and make no mistakes and when you make a mistake, they make you pay."

"We didn't make a lot of mistakes, either," he added. "They just

We were looking for everyone to step up. And they did.

Don Hickman

capitalized on every one that we did make."

Belleville was without its best player, junior Booker Stoudmire. He was out last week after suffering some minor injuries the previous week. He could miss another week or two, according to Hickman.

Junior forward Alantae Phelan played his best game to date in Stoudmire's absence. Phelan

scored 16 points. Junior Ricky Love added 14 in the effort.

"Obviously Booker is our best player," Hickman said. "I'm not saying we would have won if he played, but he would have made a difference in the game. He does so many things for us and he's a quiet team leader. He shows up and works hard every day and his teammates see that and respect him for it."

Stoudmire's teammates banded together last Tuesday—his first missed game—and put away host Taylor Truman, 55-43.

It was an opportunity for someone to step up. Junior guard Vinnie Boyd did just that. He scored all 10 of his points—eight in succession—to pull his Tigers to victory.

Hickman said senior guard Edwin Hargrave put in a lot of minutes to help the team out.

"I told the kids that we weren't looking for any one person to step up," Hickman said. "We were looking for everyone to step up. And they did. It was a good game, a good win for us."

Belleville is at Willow Run for its only match this week. On Tuesday, the Tigers head to Southgate for a 7 p.m. tip-off.

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RAMBO (R) 12:30, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

27 DRESSES (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:50

CLOVERFIELD (PG-13) 7:45, 9:50 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

JUNGLE (PG-13) 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:20

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Whalers win shoot out

The Plymouth Whalers earned the 'Come-back Kids' award last week when they overcame a 3-2 deficit to beat the Kingston Frontenacs, 4-3, on Sunday. Vern Cooper tied the game in the third with his 14th goal of the season. Then Chris Terry won the game in the shootout. Andrew Fournier upped his total goals to 29 when he scored in the first period along with Brett Bellemore. Jeremy Smith's excellent goaltending earned the Whalers a 5-2 win over Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday. Smith made 44 stops in the outing. Terry scored two goals and Ryan Hayes, Fournier and Wes Cunningham scored single goals. Plymouth lost, 7-3, to the Ottawa 67's on Friday. The Whalers next home game is at 7:05 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 13. Photo by Ken Garner

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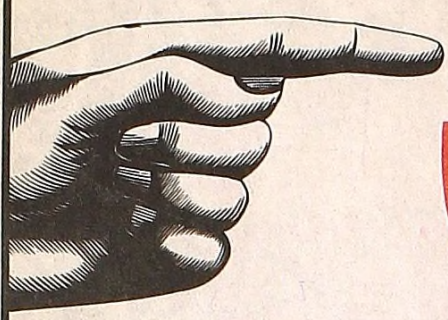
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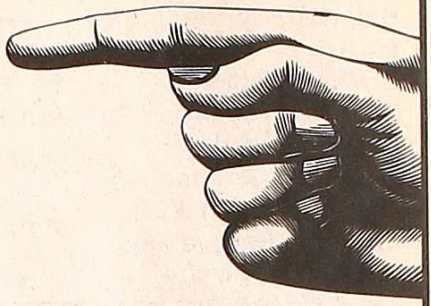
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